

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4-21, and 26 have been rejected. Claims 4 and 12 have been newly canceled. Claim 27 has been added. Claims 1, 21, and 26 herewith are amended. Claims presently active are, therefore, claims 1, 5 to 11, and 13 to 27. Favorable reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested

Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 21 with respect to Bristow numbers are to be found verbatim on page 6, lines 25 to 30. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 21 with respect to the support is to be found verbatim on page 7, lines 24 to 31. Support for the amendments to claim 21 and 27 with respect to binder is to be found on page 5, lines 14 to 18, and page 6, lines 15 to 18.

Relying on 35 U.S.C. 102(a), the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 4-21 as being anticipated by Wexler as evidenced by Landry-Coltrain et al.. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection, and request reconsideration. Applicants respectfully submit that Wexler, as evidenced by Landry-Coltrain et al. do not disclose, teach, or suggest the structure of the present invention.

The Examiner states:

Applicant's argument is based on that Wexler fails to teach a single layer of ink receiving layer over the porous support...This argument is not persuasive because independent claims 1 and 21 recites **a single layer of ink receptive layer that is capable of holding all ink colorant in an ink composition**. However, the ink carrier liquid receptive layer of Wexler holds **only** the ink carrier of the ink composition, and the ink-transporting layer **does not** hold ink colorant, thus similar to the claimed invention.

However, the present claims require that **"the porous ink-receptive layer is the only layer above the porous support."** Consequently the dye-trapping layer of Wexler cannot be equivalent to the claimed porous ink receptive layer because there is an ink-transporting layer above it.

In addition to the reasons stated in Applicants' previous response with respect to Wexler and Landry-Coltrain et al., Applicants provide

a two-page attachment for the Examiner's consideration that diagrammatically illustrates differences between the presently claimed invention and Wexler.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King et al. in view of Wexler. It is the conclusion of the Examiner that "...it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the dye trapping layer of Wexler with the invention of King, upon fusing, to eliminate the air particle interfaces present in the original porous structure of the layer, and to form a non-scattering substantially continuous layer which raises image density."

The rejection is traversed. King et al. is even further removed from Applicants' invention than Wexler and does not correct the deficiencies of Wexler. First, King et al. says nothing with respect to an absorbent support. King et al. does not remotely teach a porous support and an ink-receptive layer that in combination exhibits a Bristow Test absorption value of 20 to 120 ml/m² or a porous support that has a Bristow Test absorption value of 6 to 100 ml/m². Only particularly water-absorbent papers are useful in Applicants' invention as shown by the experimental data, and King et al. apparently find that a completely non-porous poly(vinyl chloride) substrate (used in Example 1 of King et al.) can be used or an apparently equivalent plain paper (Example 2). Moreover, the polymeric particles of King et al. are crystalline polymers (column 3, lines 11-12) and King et al. state that "Suitable polymers for the particulate polymer include low density polyethylene and copolymers of ethylene...." (column 2, line 65, to col. 3, line 1).


In view thereof, it follows that the subject matter of the claims would not have been obvious over King et al. in view of Wexler at the time the invention was made.

Applicants have reviewed the prior art made of record and believe that singly or in any suitable combination, they do not render Applicants' claimed invention unpatentable.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendment, the claims are now deemed allowable and such favorable action is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

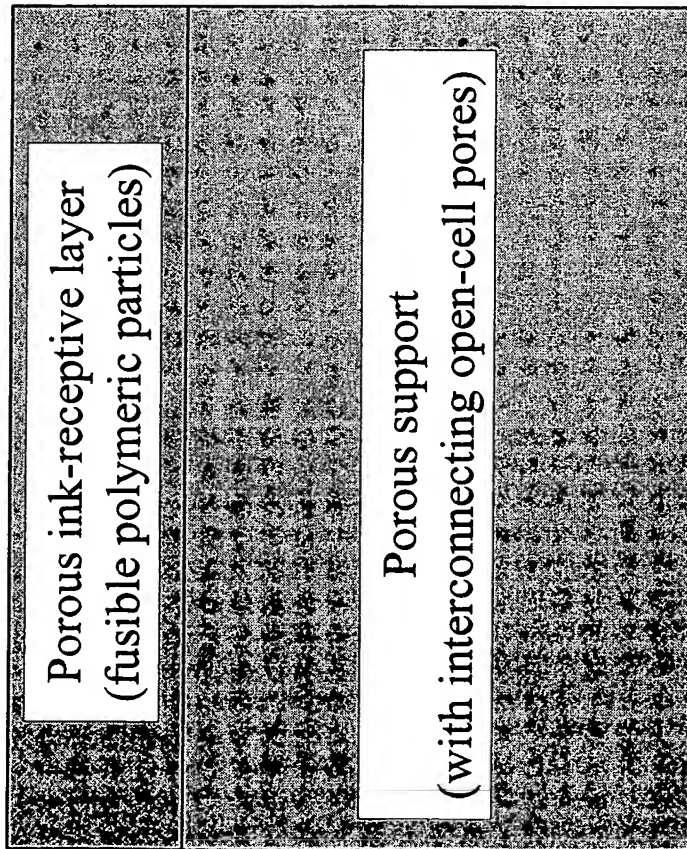


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Docket 86927 Invention

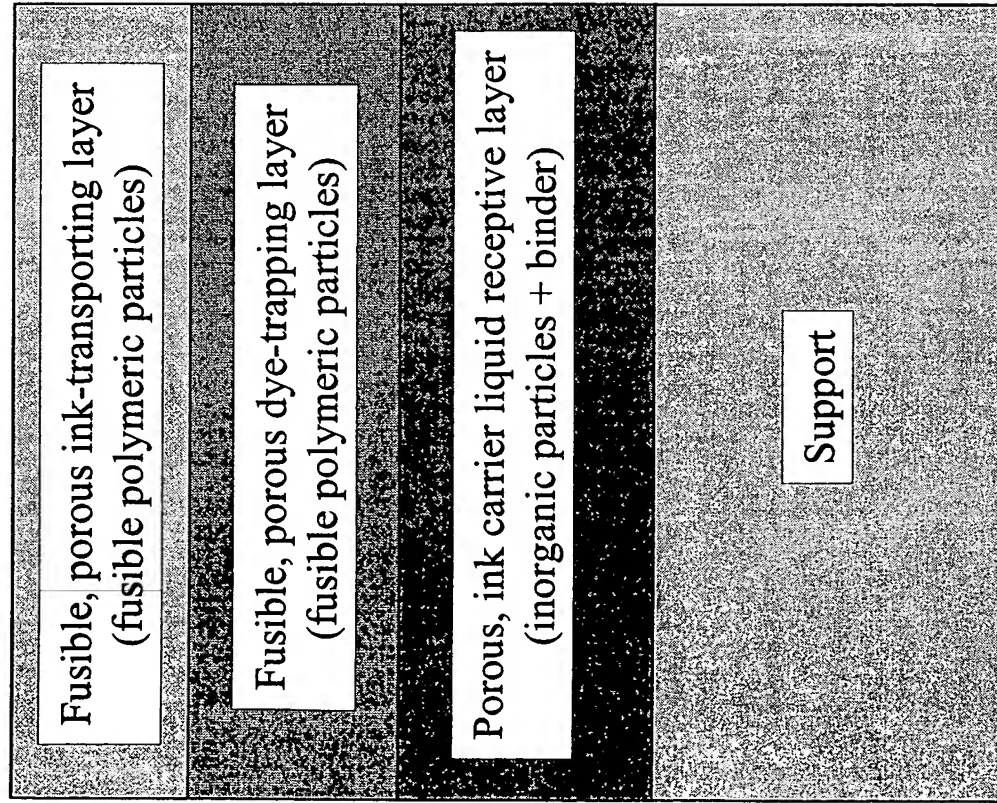
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A single layer coated directly over the porous support. This layer holds substantially all of the ink colorant.

The porous support is a single layer (essentially homogeneous) that is made in one operation such as paper making, extrusion-biaxial orientation etc. The function of this layer is to hold the majority of the ink-carrier liquid.

Wexler Patent US 6695447 B1



A single coated layer of fusible particles.
Ink fluid and colorants pass through this layer.

A single coated layer of fusible particles.
Ink colorants are trapped in this layer.

A single coated layer of inorganic particles + binder.
Essentially all of the ink-carrier fluid resides in this layer.

The support is one or more layers and is made in one or two operations (two if the paper has to be polyethylene coated). There is no requirement that this layer absorb any ink-carrier fluid.